



Commemorative Air Force Goodyear FG-1D Corsair N9964Z

Website: www.cafcorsair.com

Information Sheet: November 2011



COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

No matter how old or young, people from different generations will always fondly recognize the Corsair as the "Baa Baa Blacksheep aircraft", so popular did the type become after the airing of the original television series in the mid-1970s, and through years of re-runs and syndication to this day.

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Corsair, Bu # 92468, was manufactured by Goodyear Aircraft Corporation, under licence from Chance Vought. It was accepted by the U.S. Navy on July 19, 1945, and delivered the following day. After nine years of active military service, the Corsair was placed in storage at the U.S. Navy aircraft and disposal center at NAF (later NAS) Litchfield Park, AZ., between October and November 1954. It was struck off U.S. Navy records on January 7, 1957. On April 21, 1961 the fledgling Confederate Air Force purchased the FG-1D.

Today the Corsair is primarily based at the CAF's Dixie Wing hangar at Peachtree City-Falcon Field airport, south west of Atlanta, GA. The Corsair is maintained & operated by the CAF Corsair Sponsor Group. The FG-1D proudly represents the "checkerboard" livery of VMF-312 F4U-1D #530, flown by 1st Lt. Merritt O. Chance (aka Mo).



Above: VMF-312 F4U-1D #530, flown by U.S.M.C. 1st Lt. Merritt O. Chance, *Espiritu Santo*, New Hebrides, 1944. This is one of the series of photographs that Merritt refers to (see text).

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Below: Chris Avery conducting the full acro display routine at the Eglin AFB 75th Anniversary Open House and Airshow, Valparaiso, FL.

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The Original # 530



The original #530 was F4U-1D Bu # 57530 (Chance Vought equivalent of the Goodyear FG-1D). On May 6, 1945, #530 was lost when hit by anti-aircraft fire and it ditched in the sea off Okinawa. The pilot, 2nd Lt. Howard Ferguson was rescued. #530 was first flown by 1st Lt. Merritt O. Chance with VMF-312 on October 19, 1944, and he flew it almost exclusively until three days before the ditching.

Merritt once told the Corsair Sponsor Group "You know why #530 is so recognized. It is not because of me as the pilot, but the series of photographs that were taken and used by the U.S.M.C. in official publications." Most of those photographs Merritt referred to were taken in the vicinity of the squadron's *Espiritu Santo* base in the New Hebrides (now called Vanuatu), South Pacific, in October and November 1944.

Contact Us

To enquire about availability of the FG-1D Corsair for airshows/acro displays, film and TV work, other events, attendance fees and requirements, or any other questions, please contact:

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